

The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, JAN. 15, 1887.

Esprit du Corps.

The commercial spirit teaches the value of money. To buy the best at the lowest price is its ultimate aim. Generosity seeks a higher ideal. In the market we pay a fair price for a good article, or as a matter of charity a round price for a poor piece of merchandise. It is not generous to haggle with the washerwoman. The Church and the State live by passing the hat. It is hardly worth while to count the small change. The heart, rather than the head, may determine what is just.

For some services men pay in proportion to their circumstances. The poor are discharged for a pittance, the rich contribute to their substance.

In township matters a wise liberal should govern. Men of varied circumstances and ideas are asked to contribute towards the public resources. The farmer, the mechanic, the business man, and the day laborer are all interested in the growth and prosperity of their own village.

Each should have an active interest in every public undertaking. One spirit should fill each breast, a willingness to aid every laudable undertaking.

Good schools, good roads, good sidewalks, water, gas, and fire companies, are all necessary for the growth of the body politic. Shall one oppose appropriations for roads because he has no wagon? or for schools because he has no children? or for sidewalks because his are in order? Has he not an interest in his neighbors' improvements? Shall he not rejoice when taxes are paid, and sorrow when they are in arrears?

The growth of a township is not reckoned from the enterprise of a few. It is the public spirit which pervades every part, from which the town is known, and by which it prospers.

Public spirit is stimulated by generous acts, by the consideration shown by the prosperous for their less fortunate neighbors, and the willingness of the poor to contribute their share to the comfort of the well-to-do.

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We are about to close another township year. Arrears of taxes to a considerable amount are still unpaid. Public spirit would suggest an effort to wipe out the debt.

Officers for a new year are soon to be elected, appropriations are to be voted, policies are to be discussed, and plans adopted, a proper spirit requires that fairness and generosity shall govern the choice and action of voters.

It is the spirit of loyalty and faithfulness which make the army. Wheel horses, not kickers, are needed in the traces.

The past has been a year of progress. Public and private improvements have grown apace. Their continuance depends upon the existence of an active, energetic public spirit. This must sustain them or they will soon cease.

In arousing and sustaining this spirit *The Citizen* has been first and foremost. It is itself a laudable enterprise, and should receive an enthusiastic support. Its columns furnish opportunity for the discussion of every public movement. Its tone is progressive and earnest.

Whatever its financial success, its influence as a guide to public opinion has been invaluable. With other public undertakings of which the people approve, let it be generously sustained.

Another Library Association.

Some years ago the Bloomfield Library Association came into existence. The Monumental Folly Association would have been a far more appropriate name. The only thing about it which savored of library was its name, whereas for fully rounded out folly, it would be hard to match the dealings with and proceedings by this defunct organization; and surely it has left behind it a most fitting and only too enduring monument of its chief characteristic in the unsuitable, unsightly, and well nigh useless pile of bricks and mortar which stands at the end of our park.

Perhaps (whom shall I?) the money used in the building, may, in time to come, bear fruit even a hundred fold; for as the builders of it contemplate it and as the stranger and the rising generation inquire about it, the lesson of the adaptation of means to ends may be learned. It was sought to enforce this lesson in the Scriptures some hundred years ago, when attention was called to the folly of the man who began to build without counting the cost thereof, but the lesson seems to be still unlearned, and perhaps a local monument constantly before the eyes of the people may be of incalculable service in enforcing it.

There are doubtless other persons and organizations in the town who could just now profit much by a contemplation of the history of Folly Mon-

ument, but there is one whose attention we should particularly like to call to. The Watessing Free Public Library. This society has just been organized and ought to be the means of doing much good. Watessing, owing to its distance from the Oranges and the round about road to Bloomfield, is to a certain degree dependent upon its own resources. Thus it has its own stores and churches and will doubtless soon demand its own schools. Influences not necessary to detail will cause this district to become rapidly and thickly settled, and a free public library, properly conducted and properly supported, will do more to counteract the influence of the saloon than anything else we can think of, not even excepting the prohibition party. This suggests the remark that if the money, which found its way into the pockets of political prohibitionists in this state, during the last election, had been devoted to free libraries and reading rooms, the cause of temperance would have been much benefited. One great if not the greatest element of the saloons, is the fact that they afford a comfortable and apparently free meeting place. Men are gregarious animals and will herd in a good place if they have it; if not, in a bad one. It is now proposed to furnish one good one in Watessing, open to all comers.

Here now is an opportunity for the Bloomfield public to lend a hand in a practical effort to antagonize the influence of the saloon and street corner, to assist church and temperance work, to elevate the tone of society and insure the public welfare. It will not be thought a bad feature of the case that assistance can be rendered at slight pecuniary expense. The library does not wish money but books. We are sure that many of our people have books, which have ceased to be of any particular value to them, but would be exceedingly valuable to the library. We hereby ask in the name of the Society, the donation of these books, and we urge upon our friends not to be too particular. Any book, whatever may be its title or condition will be acceptable. If anything, by any chance, should be sent which ought not to go into circulation the library committee may be relied upon to sift it out. So please send along novels, histories, biographies, essays, poems, works of science and art or any other sort of book, sacred or profane, bound in cloth, calf, morocco or not bound at all, with a paper or no cover. This organization does not intend to look a gift horse in the mouth, and we are sure that there is enough variety of taste in Watessing to make welcome to somebody, whatever may come.

We have above referred to lessons to be derived from the contemplation of the Monument of Folly; we need but call attention to it, because its history is but too well known. We have only to say firstly that the primary object of a library is to furnish books, and secondly that the time for the Society to spend money is after they have it.

An Ideal Home.

The *Journal of Decorative Art* says: The ideal beautiful home is attained rather by avoiding errors of taste than by the adoption of special dogmas of art. For my own part, if I have any dogmas to preach they may fairly be condensed in this one rule: "Avoid shams and affectations of all kinds."

Don't mistake mere prettiness for beauty. Millinery, for instance, is out of place in the home beautiful.

Don't attach to your chairs and sofas cushions meaningless bows of ribbons which tie nothing.

Don't dress up your toilet tables in muslin petticoats stiffened with crinoline or colored calico.

Don't scatter startling white "tidies" about chairs and sofas as on so many bushes, as if you were hanging out the wash to dry.

Don't display on your walls china plates and dishes. They were never meant to go there. An exception may be made now and then in favor of a piece of fine color to help light up the room or where a delicate china painting is worthy of careful examination. But hang up ordinary domestic china! Don't!

Don't hang small pictures so that their beauty is lost to any one under eight feet high. If a picture is not seen from the same position that the artist saw it when he painted it, the drawing will appear foreshortened and the general effect consequently falsified.

Don't hang any picture in the home which has not the impress of elegance, purity and cheerfulness.

Don't give place to representations of corpses, tortured saints or anything occasioning painful emotions. And above all, having such pictures and not wanting them down stairs, don't banish them to the nursery, school-room or bedroom.

Some things I would relegate to the

bedroom, out of the way somewhere, in locked drawers, for instance. I mean mementos of sea weed and dried ferns for flowers and wretched daubs on china, canvas or paper, the crude efforts of youthful members of the family. No true lover of the home beautiful will inflict these on his family and friends and compel them to violate truth by pretending to like.

Don't buy your carpet or your wall paper, because it looks pretty in the roll when you see it in the store. But think of the fitness of each with its ultimate surroundings. Remember that the carpet is to be a background for your furniture, and the wall paper, unless it is to be the actual decoration of the walls, is merely to be a background for your pictures.

Don't admit into the home beautiful any piece of furniture or implement of every day life which does not honestly serve its purpose: no light flimsy chairs which an able bodied man dare not sit upon; no puffy bed-dilated sofas, all wind and springs; no burnished brass sheeted fire irons bought only to be looked at and give place to the ugly little black poker and shovel when coal is to be broken or ashes are to be removed.

There is no reason why an object should not be useful as well as ornamental. Indeed, there can be no beauty without fitness. Nature everywhere teaches us the compatibility of the highest utility with the greatest beauty.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MONEY.—A large income will purchase for a man the comfort, tangible and intangible good which a small income will not. Nothing will controvert this bald fact. Not all the preaching and philosophy in the world can persuade a rational man that money is not a good thing, which will educate his children, to give them their choice of work in life, to procure skilled physicians, luxuries and change of air for his wife when death threatens her, to help the poor, to forward the cause of Christianity, and, for himself, to rest a brief space before he leaves this beautiful world, to find out what is in it beyond tithing. There are high spiritual blessings, no doubt, which come to us through poverty; but the extremely small number of persons who voluntarily become hermits or paupers in these later days in order to obtain them show how uncertain the popular faith in them has grown. Money is of value to a man just in proportion as it buys for him these assured benefits, or anything else which he esteems a benefit.

This story is to the late Bishop Wilberforce:—On one occasion, while staying at a country house not many miles from Windsor, the daughter of the host, a girl of seven, suddenly broke out before all the assembled company:—"I want to ask you a question, my lord. Will you answer me very—very truly, sir?" The bishop smiled, took the child on his knee, and said, "Of course I will, my dear. What is it?" The child looked gravely at him, and let fall the following terrible question:—"Why does every body call you 'Soapy Sam'?" The feelings of the company may easily be imagined; but the bishop was quite equal to the occasion, and, after casting a cynical glance round the room, replied simply, "I will tell you, my darling. People call me 'Soapy Sam' because whenever I get into hot water I always come out with clean hands."



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